

Each of the independent claims recites that each of the panel-mounted exciters is *separately* driven (or is adapted to be separately driven) by *independent* sources of drive signals. The Examiner asserts that the treble-tone and bass-tone signals respectively supplied to drivers 3 and 2 of Mochida's loudspeaker represent independent sources. This assertion is incorrect.

The treble-tone and base-tone signals of Mochida are not from independent sources because they are derived either from "the same monochannel" (see col. 2, lines 8-9), or from the same "stereophonic signal source" (see col. 2, lines 14-18). The word "independent" means "not contingent or conditioned by anything else." Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (excerpt attached). This is clearly not the case even with the stereophonic embodiment of Mochida, where the left and right channels are so related as to provide a single stereophonic experience to the listener.

Further, the bass-tone signal referred to in col. 2, lines 16-18 of Mochida is mixed from both the left and the right channels before it reaches the bass driver. This is in contrast to the present invention, where signal mixing can take place *in the panel* thanks to the bending mode of operation of the panel, as explained on page 4, ¶ [0009] of the application.

As for the rejection of dependent claim 9 based on Mochida and Azima, the combination of these teachings, even if properly made, would still not result in what is claimed because of Mochida's lack of independent sources of drive signals for the separate drivers. While Azima does disclose the use of a loudspeaker in a ceiling tile, it does not make up for the "independent source" deficiency in Mochida.

Applicant thus believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

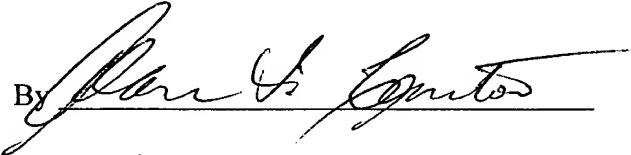
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date AUG 22 2003

By 

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written order with a duplicate or counterfoil; hence, to make a requisition on or upon. (Orig. Anglo-Indian.) Also, later, to draw upon. 1829. 6. *trans.* To make an incision in (a board, etc.) for the purpose of dovetailing, etc.; to join or joint together by this method 1741. 7. *Printing.* To set back (from the margin) the beginning of (one or more lines); to insert (notes) in the text 1676. 78. *intr.* To move in a zigzag or indented line; to double -1643. 7b. *trans.* To i. the way: in same sense -1622. 1. b. Lochleven, an arm of the sea which deeply indents the western coast of Scotland MACAULAY. 3. He indented not what reward he should have ASK. SANDYS. 5. I have indented largely, (to use our Indian official term,) for the requisite books MACAULAY. 7. You must i. your Line four Spaces at least MOXON. **Indent** (in'dent), *v.* 2. ME. [f. IN-2 + DENT *v.* In actual use not regarded as distinct from *prec.*] 1. *trans.* To inlay, set, emboss -1730. 2. *trans.* To form as a dint, dent, or depression; to impress ME. 3. To make a dint or dints in (a thing) with or as with a blow; to dint or dent 1886. 4. *intr.* To become indented or furrowed 1653. 2. Deep Scars were seen indented on his Breast DAYTON. 3. Shields indented deep in glorious wars POPE. **Indentation** (in'den-tā-shən), 1728. [f. IN-DENT *v.* 1 and 2; see -ATION.] 1. f. IN-DENT *v.* 1. The action of indenting; the condition of being indented; denticulation; toothing 1836. 2. A cut, notch, or angular incision in anything; a deep recess in a coastline, or the like 1728. 3. *Printing.* = INDENTATION I. 2. 1864. 2. The Greek coast is full of indentations BUCKLE. II. f. IN-DENT *v.* 2. The action of impressing so as to form a dent or dint; the dent, hollow, or depression thus formed; any depression in a surface 1847. **Indented** (in'den-tēd), *ppl.* a. 1. ME. [f. IN-DENT *v.* 1 + -ED.] 1. Having the edge deeply cut with angular incisions; serrated 1440. 2. Having a serrated or zigzag figure, direction, or course; constructed with salient and re-entrant angles, as a battery, parapet, etc. 1600. 3. *Her.* Of an ordinary, etc.: Having a series of similar indentations or notches ME. 3. Of a legal document: Cut zigzag or wavy at the top or edge; having counterparts severed by a zigzag line ME. 4. Bound by an indenture 1758. 5. *Printing.* Set in, so as to break the line of the margin 1840. 1. *Indented Line* (in *Fortif.*), a serrated line, forming several angles, so that one side defends another. 3. Deeds are divided into two sorts; deeds poll, or cut in a straight line; and deeds indented CAUSE. **Indented** (in'den-tēd), *ppl.* a. 2. 1635. [f. IN-DENT *v.* 2 + -ED.] 1. Impressed, struck, or dented in, so as to make a depression in a surface. 2. Marked with sharp depressions on the surface, as if caused by blows. Hence *Indentedly adv.* **Indentee** (in'den-tē), a. 1727. [ad. F. *endente*, ad. med. L. *indentatus*; see IN-DENT *v.* 1] *Her.* Having indents not joined to each other, but set apart. **Indenting** (in'den-tin), *vbl.* sb. 1. ME. [f. IN-DENT *v.* 1 + -ING.] The action of IN-DENT *v.* 1, or its result. a. = INDENTATION I. 1, 2. b. The making of an INDENTURE (I. 2) or INDENT (sb. 3-5) 1472. **Indenting** (in'den-tin), *vbl.* sb. 2. 1580. [f. IN-DENT *v.* 2 + -ING.] = INDENTATION II. **Indentation** (in'den-tā-shən), 1733. [Irreg. f. IN-DENT *v.* 1 and 2] 1. f. IN-DENT *v.* 1. = INDENTATION I. 1, 2. 2. *Printing.* The indenting of a line in printing or writing; the leaving of a blank space at the beginning of a line at the commencement of a new paragraph, etc.; the blank space so left 1824. 2. *Hanging or reverse i.*, the projection of the first line of a paragraph, etc., beyond the vertical line of those that follow. II. f. IN-DENT *v.* 2. = INDENTATION II. 1839. **Indentment**, 1597. [f. IN-DENT *v.* 1 + -MENT.] 1. Indentation -1713. 2. An indenture, covenant -1611. **Indenture** (in'den-tūr), sb. [ME. *endenteure*, a. OE. *endenteure* (later -ure), ad. L. type

indentura*; see IN-DENT *v.* 1. In sense repr. also IN-DENT *v.* 2] 1. f. IN-DENT *v.* 1. The action of indenting; an indentation 1671. 2. A deed between two or more parties with mutual covenants, executed in two or more copies, all having their tops or edges correspondingly indented for identification and security. Hence, any deed or sealed agreement between two or more parties. ME. b. *spec.* The contract by which an apprentice is bound to a master 1403. c. An official list, inventory, certificate, etc., prepared (orig. in duplicate) for purposes of control, as a voucher, etc. ME. d. *fig.* Contract, mutual engagement 1540. 73. A zigzag line or course; a doubling -1781. 2. And our Indentures Tripartite are drawne SHAKS. b. To take up one's indentures, to receive the i. back from the master in evidence of the completion of apprenticeship or service. c. My heart hath past Indentures with mine eye, Not to behold a Maid Quarles. II. f. IN-DENT *v.* 2. 1. An inlaying or embossing 1664. 2. = INDENTATION II. 1793. **Indenture, *v.* 1631. [f. IN-DENTURE sb.] 1. *intr.* To enter into an indenture. R. FRANK. 2. *trans.* To bind by indentures 1676. 73. *intr.* To move in a zigzag line -1635. 4. *trans.* To indent, furrow 1770. 4. Age may creep on, and i. the brow Worr. **Indentwise**, *adv.* 1758. [f. IN-DENT sb. 1 + -WISE.] After the form of an indenture, with a counterpart. **Independence** (in'dep-en-dēns), Also 1. *ance.* 1640. [f. INDEPENDENT; see -ENCE. Cf. F. *indépendance*.] 1. The condition or quality of being independent; the fact of not depending on another (see the adj.); exemption from external control or support; individual liberty of thought or action. Rarely in bad sense: Insubordination. 2. *concr.* A competency; = INDEPENDENCY 3. 1815. 3. *attrib.* 1860. 1. The charms of i. let us sing SHENSTONE. The dignified clergy... pretended to a total i. on the State HOME. 3. *Independence Day*, July 4, the day on which, in 1776, the Declaration of I. was made; celebrated annually in U.S. as a national holiday. **Independency** (in'dep-en-dēnsi), Also 1. *ancy.* 1611. [f. as *prec.* + -ENCY.] 1. = *prec.* 1. Now rare. 2. = CONGREGATIONALISM 1. 1642. 3. *concr.* pl. Independent things 1659. b. An autonomous state 1818. c. A competency; a fortune on which the possessor can live without earning his bread 1748. 3. c. The deceased had something in the nature of an i., however modest 1886. **Independent** (in'dep-en-dēnt), Also 1. *ant.* 1611. [f. IN-2 + -DEPENDENT; cf. F. *indépendant*.] Not dependent. A. *adj.* 1. Not depending upon the authority of another; not in position of subordination; not subject to external control or rule; self-governing, free. 2. (with capital I.) = CONGREGATIONAL 2. 1642. 3. Not contingent on or conditioned by anything else 1614; not depending on the existence or action of others, or of each other 1790. 4. Not dependent on another for support or supplies 1670. 1. b. *simply.* (a) Not dependent on any one else for one's living; (b) not needing to earn one's living. 1732. c. *transf.* Constituting a competency 1790. 5. Not influenced or biased by the opinions of others; thinking or acting for oneself 1735. b. (cf. 14). Refusing to be under obligation to others (*mod.*). 6. *Math.* Not depending on another for its value. 1. *variable*: a quantity whose variation does not depend on that of another. 1852. 1. An i. workman, such as a weaver or shoemaker A. SMITH. It has been said, that the church is i. on the state 1785. 2. Beauty and Merit are Things real, and i. on Taste and Opinion STEELE. An i. inquiry has been instituted by the Local Board of Health (*mod.*). Phr. *Independent of* (from, & from): = *Independently of*, without regard to, irrespective of. 4. b. *transf.* A dry but i. crust COVER. c. A person of i. means 1885. 5. A person capable of taking an i. stand HAWTHORNE. 1. *Labour Party* (see LABOUR). b. The widow... is very i., and refuses all pecuniary aid (*mod.*). B. sb. 1. An adherent of Independence; a member of an Independent church; a Congregationalist 1644. 2. A person who acts independently, of any organized party; also, a

member of any organized party called *Indep. dent* 1808. Hence *Independence*: fa. = INDEPENDENCY 2; b. the principles of any party call *Independent*. *Independently adv.* **Independing**, a. 1604. [f. IN-3 + -ING. *pend* ppl. *adj.*] = INDEPENDENT a. -167. **Indeposable**, a. *rare.* [IN-3.] That cannot be deposited. STILLINGFL. **Indepavate**, a. 1609. [ad. L. *indepravatus*.] Uncorrupted. **Indeprehensible**, a. 1633. [ad. L. *indeprehensibilis* (Quintil.).] Incapable of being mentally apprehended; undiscoverable -165. **Indeprivable** (in'dep-rī-vāb'l), a. N. *rare.* 1585. [IN-3.] 1. Incapable of being taken away. 2. That cannot be deprived something. WESTER. **Indescribable** (in'deskrī-bāb'l), a. (s) 1794. [IN-3.] A. *adj.* That cannot be described; indefinite, vague; transcending description. B. sb. (pl.) Things which cannot be described (*slang*) trousers 1794. Hence *Indescribability*, incapacity of being described; something that cannot be described. *Indescribably adv.* **Indescriptive**, a. *rare.* 1828. [IN-3. Not descriptive. **Indesert** (in'des-ūt). Now *rare.* 1612. IN-3 + DESERT sb.] Absence of desert 16. pl. Demerits, faults. **Indesignate** (in'de-zign-āt), a. 1844. IN-3 + DESIGNATE *ppl.* a.] *Logic.* Not quantified, indefinite. Also as sb. The I. is, often not thought in any relation quantity at all MILL. **Indesinent**, a. 1601. [See IN-3 and D. SINE.] Unceasing, perpetual -1799. Hen **Indesinency**, **Indesinently adv.** **Indesirable**, a. 1846. [IN-3.] Undesirable. **Indestructible** (in'des-trō-k-tīb'l), a. 167 [IN-3.] That cannot be destroyed; incapable of destruction. Hence *Indestructibility*, *Indestructibleness*, *Indestructibly adv.* **Indeterminable** (in'de-tē-mīnāb'l), a. (s) 1486. [ad. L. *indeterminabilis* (Tertullian)] 1. Not capable of being limited in respect range, number, etc. (*rare*) -1690. 2. Of disputes, etc.: Incapable of being settled 1613. 3. Incapable of being definitely fixed; *spec.* *Nat. Hist.* 1646. 4. sb. An indeterminate point or problem. SIR T. BROWNE. Hen **Indeterminableness**, **Indeterminably adv.** **Indeterminate** (in'de-tē-mīn-āt), a. (s) ME. [ad. L. *indeterminatus* (Tertullian)] Not determined; undetermined. 1. Not definitely set down. CHAUCER. 2. Not fix in extent, number, character, or nature; definite, indistinct, uncertain 1603. 3. b. statements, words, etc.: Wanting in precise vague 1774. c. *Math.* Of a quantity: N. limited to a fixed value or number of value (Also as sb.) Of a problem: Having an unlimited number of solutions. 1706. d. *Bot.* (= INDEFINITE II. 3. a. 1731; (b) of aestivation. Having parts which do not come into contact the bud 1842. 3. Not established; uncertain 1626. 4. Not decided; left doubtful 1656. Not determined by motives (regarded as external forces); acting freely 1836. 2. Empires of great extent but i. limits 1782. Some is an i. adjective JEVONS. c. 1. *analysis*, a branch of analysis which deals with the solution of problems. 2. *Method of i. coefficients* (more prop. *undetermined coefficients*), a method of analysis invented by DESCARTES. 3. *equation*, an equation which the unknown quantities are i. 1. *form*, a form consisting of two i. quantities. 1. *series*, a series whose terms proceed by the powers of an i. quantity. 3. An i. future GEO. ELPHINSTONE. 5. In positive morality the mandate is conceived as emanating from a superior GEORGE. Hence *Indeterminacy* (*rare*) *Indeterminately adv.*, -ness. **Indetermination** (in'de-tē-mīn-ā-shən), 1611. [f. *prec.*; see -ATION.] Absence of determination; the fact or condition of being undetermined or indeterminate 1649. 7b. An indeterminate number or quantity. FOTHERBY. **Indetermined** (in'de-tē-mīnd), a. No *rare.* 1611. [f. IN-3 + DETERMINED *ppl.* a. Not determined, UNDETERMINED. 7b. *Math.* = INDETERMINATE 2 c. -1743.